

REMARKS

This amendment is offered in response to the Office Action of January 6, 2003.

It is respectfully submitted that this amendment will require neither a new search nor substantial new reconsideration.

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-5 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over the Cetrelli reference (U.S. Patent No. 4,284,228) in view of Applicant's allegedly admitted prior art.

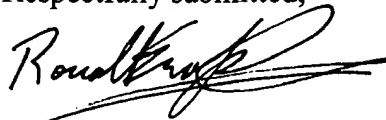
However, the Cetrelli reference apparently discloses a relatively rigid container. Moreover, the container of the Cetrelli reference would not tend to tear along the vent depressions even if the vent depressions were holes. Even if the depressions were replaced with holes, these holes would be provided in only a single layer of the double ply. Otherwise, the liquid within the container of the Cetrelli reference would leak through the wall.

This is quite different from newly amended Claim 1 which recites that "a line of through vent apertures" is provided to a web component which has "a tendency to tear along lines of apertures". It is respectfully submitted that this is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited prior art, alone or in combination, and that the presently pending claims are patentable over the cited art.

For all of the reasons above, it is respectfully submitted that the presently pending claims are in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw

the rejections of the claims, to enter the present amendment, to allow the claims, and to pass this application to early issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald Levy", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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APPENDIX

In the Claims

Kindly rewrite claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended For A Fourth Time) A method for providing a line of through vent apertures to a web component of a plastic bag, said web component having a tendency to tear along lines of apertures, comprising the steps of:

providing a cutter which cuts a line of vent apertures along a first direction, said vent apertures being oriented in a second direction which is not parallel to said first direction such that the orientation of said line of vent apertures minimizes tear propagation of said web component;

providing an anvil means against which said cutter bears, thereby creating a nip; and

drawing the web component through said nip formed between said cutter and said anvil means thereby forming said line of vent apertures in the web component;

wherein said vent apertures provide ventilation to the interior of said plastic bag when said web component is attached to said plastic bag.